

§ 36.3

7 CFR Ch. I (1–1–08 Edition)

and State or Federal agencies. Such groups and individuals may at any time recommend that AMS develop, revise suspend, or terminate a grade standard. Requests for Agency action should be in writing, preferably accompanied by a draft of the suggested change.

(1) The Agency, in cooperation with interested parties, as applicable, will:

- (i) Determine the need for new or revised standards;
- (ii) Collect technical, marketing, or other appropriate data;
- (iii) Conduct research regarding new or revised standards, as appropriate; and,
- (iv) Draft the proposed standards;

(2) [Reserved]

(b) If the Agency determines that new standards are needed, existing standards need to be revised, or the suspension or termination of existing standards is justified, it will undertake the action, with input from all interested parties.

§ 36.3 Public notification of grade standards action.

After developing a standardization proposal, the Agency will publish a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER describing new or changes to existing standards or to suspend or terminate existing standards. AMS will simultaneously issue a news release about these actions. AMS will also distribute copies of the full text of the proposals to anyone requesting a copy or to anyone the Agency believes may be interested, including other Federal, State, or local government agencies, and on the Internet. For other than minor editorial or technical changes, the notice will provide at least 60 days for interested parties to submit comments to the Agency.

(a) All comments received within the comment period will be part of the public record maintained by the Agency, will be available to the public for review, and will be considered by the Agency before final action is taken on the proposal.

(1) Based on the comments received, the Agency's knowledge of standards, grading, marketing, and other technical factors, and any other relevant information AMS will decide whether

the proposed actions should be implemented.

(2) If AMS concludes that the actions as proposed or with minor modifications should be adopted, AMS will publish a description of the changes or actions in a FEDERAL REGISTER notice. The Agency, through the appropriate AMS Divisions, will make the grade standards and related information available in printed form and electronic media.

(3) If the Agency determines that proposed changes are not warranted, or otherwise are not in the public interest, the Agency will either publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice withdrawing the proposal, or will revise the proposal and again seek public input.

(b) [Reserved]

PART 37—PROGRAM TO ASSESS ORGANIC CERTIFYING AGENCIES

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SOURCE: 64 FR 30867, June 9, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

§ 37.1 Definitions.

Words used in this part in the singular form shall be deemed to impart the plural, and vice versa, as the case may demand. For the purposes of such regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms shall be construed, respectively, to mean:

Assessment services. The services provided by the Meat Grading and Certification Branch in accordance with the